

Burning Not Sectional.

The burning of one negro in Indiana and another in Texas, coming so soon after the burning of negroes in Kansas and Colorado, proves that this form of brutality is not sectional. It is a sad commentary on our civilization that people can become so frenzied as to resort to such methods of punishment in any part of the country.

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Slavery in South Carolina.

The revolting instance of enforced servitude discovered in South Carolina has caused a widespread sensation among the colored people of the north. But it should be remembered that very few persons were connected with this new form of slavery and that a white judge and a white jury ferreted out the crime and brought the offenders to justice.

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A Just Measure.

Senator Charles O. Baldwin, of Duluth, has introduced a bill in the Minnesota legislature providing for the taxation of railroad bonds as part of the capital of the company. The Supreme Court of that state has decided that bonds shall not be deducted from the assessed value of capital stock, and Senator Baldwin's bill is intended to make this decision effective. As long as a railroad company insists upon collecting tolls sufficient to pay interest on bonds as well as dividends on stock, it ought not object to paying taxes on both.

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Hauling Down the Flag.

What! Haul down the flag from the staff in China—after all the blood that has been shed! What has become of the noble sentiment to the effect that where the flag has been hoisted by American valor it shall never come down! Has treason left its slimy trail across the steps of the White House? Has copperheadism lifted its horrid front and hissed through the keyhole of the Blue room? Or is the flag-lowering episode in China explained by the fact that there is no chance for American exploiters over there? Can it be possible that the pacified condition of the Philippines requires all our attention? Or has "who will haul down the flag?" taken a place alongside "plain duty" and the "national code of morals?"

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Waiting for Prodigals.

The Kansas City Star is taking a deep interest in the St. Louis situation and expresses great indignation because THE COMMONER protests against the nomination of an unrepentant republican on the democratic ticket. Well, it seems impossible to please our esteemed contemporary. It does not connect itself with any party, but generously gives advice to all. Here is a sample of its logic:

"The character of the men who bolted Bryanism will not permit a stultification of belief;" therefore, the party must stultify itself and apologize to the deserters. This seems to be the Star's idea. It is willing to forgive the party, provided it will return to the fold of the financiers.

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Defalcation is Contempt.

Judge Candler, of Macon, Ga., recently put contempt of court proceedings to very practical use.

A receiver appointed by Judge Candler's court was alleged to be in default as receiver to the

amount of \$6,000. Judge Candler wasted no time on red tape. He promptly sent the receiver to jail for contempt of court and ordered him to be confined until the full amount was paid. There have been instances when contempt proceedings were rather overdrawn, but it will be gratifying to learn that Judge Candler has been sustained on this occasion. If an officer of the court steals other peoples' money, the money having been entrusted to him by the court, the honor and dignity of the court have been assailed. To make the dishonest receiver disgorge and to punish him for his offense are desirable results. Judge Candler has moved in the right direction.

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Great Progress Toward Peace.

On March 3rd Mr. Taft, president of the Philippine Commission, cabled to Mr. McKinley that "Great progress has been made toward peace." Since the receipt of this dispatch the work of recruiting 30,000 men for use in the Philippines is being carried on with renewed vigor. The "progress towards peace" recently made in the Philippines has been so "great" that it will not do to permit our army to fall short of 65,000 fighting men. The "backbone of the insurrection" has been "broken" on so many occasions that we might begin to suspect that there was no room left for additional fractures. But the backbones of insurrections carried on by men fighting for self-government must be broken many times. Until this country became a "world power" Americans were in the habit of believing that it was impossible to actually break such backbones.

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Day Labor Best.

Commissioner of Public Works McGann, of Chicago, has made a report in which he takes occasion to defend the practice of employing day labor on public work instead of letting the work out to contractors. The contract system will not stand the test of investigation. The work done by contract is apt to be slighted, and it is generally more expensive. The contractor, after he once secures the contract, is pecuniarily interested in making as much out of the job as possible, and if officials are corrupt in the procuring of the contract, the amount must be made out of the public. There is no reason why a city, county, or other subdivision should not pay for what it gets in the way of work, and get what it pays for. The contract system has been fruitful of large contributions in campaign times, but it is not satisfactory from any standpoint. There is every reason to hope that the practice of direct employment will increase.

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Bankrupting Our Customers.

Mr. Charles R. Flint, of rubber trust fame, in an article in the Forum, says:

The United Kingdom for ten months in 1900 imported \$2,081,000,000 worth of merchandise against exportations amounting to \$1,183,000,000, leaving a trade balance against her of \$897,539,819. Germany, which ranks next among the industrial nations, imported \$915,019,000 for nine months in 1900, and exported merchandise valued at \$714,060,000, leaving a trade balance against her for nine months of \$237,959,000. France for nine months imported \$638,996,000, and exported \$580,471,000, a difference of \$58,000,000 against her. While, therefore, the United States is piling up a credit balance of over \$600,000,000 a year, our three chief competitors for the trade of the world are writ-

ing a total of over a billion on the wrong side of the ledger. That the full significance of these figures may be appreciated, they must be studied and analyzed. It is as though four houses were doing business side by side. One of these houses, the United States, after paying all its running expenses, has a balance of \$600,000,000 in round numbers, while the other three houses have an aggregate loss to write up at the end of each year amounting to \$1,000,000,000.

It is not always safe to discuss a balance of trade without first examining it. England generally has a balance of trade against her, but the excess of her imports has, as a rule, measured her income from foreign investments. This nation has been a debtor to England and our accumulation of money has not kept pace with the balance of trade in our favor. But, in the long run, trade must be reciprocal. We cannot expect to profit permanently by a policy which seeks to encourage exports and prevent imports. A trade must be profitable to both sides to be enduring, each party selling what it can produce best and buying what it can buy to advantage. There is a limit to our balance of trade. We cannot hope to sell everything and buy nothing, for such a policy would soon bankrupt our customers.

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Municipal Contests.

Several municipal contests to be decided next month have assumed national importance. Chicago, the second city in the United States, is to select a mayor and Carter H. Harrison, for a third time the democratic nominee, seems sure to be re-elected upon a platform favoring the municipal ownership of municipal franchises.

In St. Louis, the campaign is notable because the re-organizing element of the party is in control of the democratic machinery and is fishing for the support of the corporations with a bolter for bait.

In Cleveland, Tom L. Johnson has been nominated on a reform platform, and is making what looks like a winning fight against the Hanna machine.

Toledo's mayor, Sam Jones, is a candidate for re-election. He has become so well known as a champion of the golden rule that his race is being watched with interest. His success seems assured.

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Judicial Naps Not in Error.

The Illinois Appellate Court was recently confronted with the point that certain court proceedings were invalid because the presiding judge took a nap on the bench while the case was pending. The Illinois court has held that the judicial nap did not invalidate the proceedings.

A New York paper recalls an interesting rejoinder made by the late William M. Evarts. In the New York Constitutional Convention of 1867, a proposition was made to retire all judges at the age of seventy. One member of that convention, who was a lawyer famous for his long speeches, told of having seen one venerable chancellor asleep on the bench and used this as an argument in favor of the proposition. Mr. Evarts, who was a member of the convention, said:

The honorable gentleman does not tell us whether he was present as counsel or as a spectator on the occasion of which he speaks so feelingly, but it is well known to the members of the bar that the venerable Chancellor never slept when anything was transpiring worthy of his attention.

The only wonder is that "judicial naps" are not the rule rather than the exception.